Memo

Date: January 12, 2018

To: County and Tribal Child Welfare Agency Directors and Staff; Multi-disciplinary Systems and Community Partners

From: Jamie Sorenson, Child Safety and Permanency Division Director

Re: Super Bowl LII Coordinated Child Protection Response

This memo is to share plans for the coordinated child protection response to reports of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation during the Super Bowl LII response period and the related webinar on January 16. As you are probably aware, the Super Bowl is in Minneapolis on Feb. 4, 2018, with the response period designated from Jan. 27 through Feb. 5, 2018. This information may be useful for on-call intake or supervisors, and may also be beneficial for anyone in a child welfare agency working with sex trafficked or sexually exploited youth.

Child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation often occurs across multiple jurisdictions, both within Minnesota and across state lines. These cross-jurisdictional maltreatment reports are particularly complex for agencies to respond to. Under new state law and Minnesota Department of Human Services (Department) policies, child welfare agencies are required to respond to all reports of child sex trafficking, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, regardless of who an alleged offender is. This response should include collaboration with law enforcement and the Safe Harbor network. [Department bulletin #17-68-09C](#) includes updated details about the Sex Trafficked Child and Youth Investigative Protocols.

The Department, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health and 12 participating county agencies, facilitated creation of the cross-jurisdictional response plan for the potential increase of child trafficking during and beyond the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl LII Coordinated Child Protection Response Subcommittee was formed to improve coordination among metro-area and surrounding child welfare agencies to implement new laws related to child sex trafficking and sexually exploited youth.

Response Plan

- **Private child protection contact list for county and tribal agencies and first responders**: Primary and secondary contact information for 24-hour response to reports of sex trafficked or sexually exploited youth during the Super Bowl response period (12 participating county agencies).
- **Private county attorney contact list**: Primary county attorney’s office point of contact for cases involving sex trafficked or sexually exploited youth during the Super Bowl response period.
• **Private statewide county and tribal child protection contact list:** Primary point of contact designated for Super Bowl response, based on results of the statewide Child Protection Trafficking Response survey.

• **Increased coordination:** Due to an anticipated increase in the number of reports of sexual exploitation or sex trafficking, county and tribal agencies will coordinate to assist with placements, transportation and screening of cases involving youth from their jurisdiction, regardless if a child was found in another county or jurisdiction.

• **Placement:** Increased emergency shelter beds for minor youth of any gender identity at The Link’s Passageways Shelter (12 beds). To access shelter beds at The Link, contact the West Metro Regional Navigator line at 612-232-5428 or 612-636-4260. The 180 Degrees-Brittney’s Place also has 12 emergency shelter beds for minor girls. To access these beds call 651-332-5539 or contact the East Metro Regional Navigator line at 651-220-6750.

• **Transportation:** During the response period, it may be necessary to assist in transportation of trafficked or exploited children to placements or another approved safe location through coordination among county agencies, law enforcement and placement facilities. Most placement facilities/shelters have access to transportation assistance to help youth return safely to their home town/state, if they are from out of town. Contact the West Metro Regional Navigator at the above phone number for assistance with transportation.

• **Out of state minors:** If a child from another state is identified by a child welfare agency during the Super Bowl response period, agencies with questions or needing assistance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children may contact Mical Peterson at 651-431-4728 (business hours) or email mn.icpc@state.mn.us. All 52 compact jurisdictions have been notified of the potential for heightened responses during the Super Bowl.

• **Coordination with law enforcement command post:** Through representatives from Hennepin County Child Protection Intake and Screening, agencies should be prepared for law enforcement contact.

• **Safe Harbor resources:** All child welfare agencies should provide access to Safe Harbor services, shelter and housing, or regional navigator. See the [Minnesota Department of Health Safe Harbor website](https://www.health.state.mn.us/departments/dhhs/safeharbor/).

• **After-hours response:** All county agencies provide 24-hour response. Generally, after-hours responders gather information, coordinate with local or other law enforcement agencies to create a plan, follow up, and seek guidance from on-call supervisor (possibly have to screen), assist with finding placements, assist with transportation and provide resources.

• **Statewide response:** This may affect all Minnesota county and tribal agencies. A statewide survey was disseminated to all county child welfare agency directors, Initiative tribes, and many county attorney’s offices to collect data and document contact information statewide.

A webinar about the Super Bowl LII coordinated response will be held Jan. 16, 2018, from 9:30-10:30. Register [here](https://www.health.state.mn.us/departments/dhhs/safeharbor/). The webinar will be posted on the Department of Human Services website by January 23, 2018.

Contact Sarah Ladd, the department’s Human Trafficking Child Protection Program Coordinator, at [sarah.ladd@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.ladd@state.mn.us) with questions about the Super Bowl LII coordinated child protection response plan.

The following attachments are included with this memo:

- Super Bowl anti-trafficking services overview and East Metro Super Bowl Services
- Safe Harbor: Referral map and Safe Harbor for professionals
- Corrected Sex Trafficked Children and Youth Investigative Protocols bulletin